

PRESS RELEASE

Congressman John Conyers, Jr.

**Fourteenth District, Michigan
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
Dean, Congressional Black Caucus**

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**CONTACT:
Dena Graziano: (202) 225-6504**

CONYERS EXPRESSES DISAPPOINTMENT OVER BREAKDOWN IN CONTRACTION TALKS

Rep. John Conyers, Jr. (D-MI), Ranking Democrat on the House Judiciary, and the sponsor of legislation to partially repeal baseball's antitrust exemption, issued the following statement upon learning that talks between the owners and the players association had broken down over a possible agreement to delay contraction:

"This is a real strike out for the fans, players and cities involved. As I understand it, the talks broke down over two issues – the owners' insistence that they be able to negotiate with the players in secret over future contraction and relocation, and the owners' insistence that they be able to notify the players about the possible elimination of one franchise, and then unilaterally decide to contract another franchise. This indicates to me that the owners principal interest is in being able to enter into back room deals outside of public and congressional scrutiny.

"This is bad news for the citizens of Minnesota and every other franchise that won't agree to the owners' demands. This is all the more reason to repeal baseball's antitrust exemption – and the sooner the better."

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